

From: Eric Smith
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 6:24pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am writing today in regards to the proposed Anti-trust settlement between the US government and Microsoft corporation. I believe that this proposed agreement short-changes the American public by allowing Microsoft to continue with its current anti-competitive practices. For instance, the overly narrow definitions of "Microsoft Middleware Product" and "API" means that Section III.D.'s requirement to release information about Windows interfaces would not cover many important interfaces. Without the ability to understand these APIs, many application developers for competing platforms and products are unable to make their products interoperable with Microsoft's. This interoperability requirement is penultimate to other developers, as Microsoft currently has a monopoly in the Operating System business, and compatibility is the only way to sell products. I strongly believe that this proposal needs to be seriously rethought, with tougher actions taken against Microsoft.

Sincerely,

Eric Smith